

which is under the administrative jurisdiction of the District of Columbia or the Director on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, and which is bounded on the north by the Anacostia River, on the northeast by and inclusive of the southeast approaches to the 11th Street bridges, on the southeast by and inclusive of Route 295, and on the northwest by and inclusive of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge approaches to Suitland Parkway, as depicted on the Map.

TITLE IV—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) The term “Director” means the Director of the National Park Service.

(3) The term “Map” means the map entitled “Transfer and Conveyance of Properties in the District of Columbia”, numbered 869/80460, and dated July 2005, which shall be kept on file in the appropriate office of the National Park Service.

(4) The term “park purposes” includes landscaped areas, pedestrian walkways, bicycle trails, seating, open-sided shelters, natural areas, recreational use areas, and memorial sites reserved for public use.

(5) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 402. LIMITATION ON COSTS.

The United States shall not be responsible for paying any costs and expenses, other than costs and expenses related to or associated with environmental liabilities or clean-up actions provided under law, which are incurred by the District of Columbia or any other parties at any time in connection with effecting the provisions of this Act or any amendment made by this Act.

SEC. 403. AUTHORIZATION OF PARTIES TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS.

An officer or employee of the United States or the District of Columbia may contract for payment of costs or expenses related to any properties which are conveyed or for which administrative jurisdiction is transferred under this Act or any amendment made by this Act.

SEC. 404. NO EFFECT ON COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.

Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act may be construed to affect or limit the application of or obligation to comply with any environmental law, including section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)).

SEC. 405. CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS.

(a) DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—Not later than January 31 of each year, the Mayor of the District of Columbia shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Resources, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the use and development during the previous year of land for which title is conveyed to the District of Columbia and land for which administrative jurisdiction is transferred to the District of Columbia pursuant to this Act.

(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The Comptroller General shall report periodically to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Resources, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on—

(1) the use and development during the previous 2 years of land for which title is conveyed and land for which administrative jurisdiction is transferred pursuant to this Act; and

(2) if applicable, how such use and development complies with the Anacostia Waterfront Framework Plan referred to in section 103 of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation Act of 2004 (sec. 2–1223.03, D.C. Official Code).

(c) SUNSET.—This section shall expire 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 406. TREATMENT AS PROPERTIES TRANSFERRED TO ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL AS PART OF CAPITOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

Upon transfer to the Architect of the Capitol of title to, or administrative jurisdiction over, any property pursuant to this Act, the property shall be a part of the United States Capitol Grounds and shall be subject to sections 9, 9A, 9B, 9C, 14, and 16(b) of the Act entitled “An Act to define the area of the United States Capitol Grounds, to regulate the use thereof, and for other purposes” (relating to the policing of the United States Capitol Grounds) and sections 5101 to 5107 and 5109 of title 40, United States Code (relating to prohibited acts within the United States Capitol Grounds).

SEC. 407. DEADLINE FOR PROVISION OF DEEDS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS.

With respect to each property conveyed under this Act or any amendment made by this Act, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Administrator, or the Secretary (as the case may be) shall execute and deliver a quitclaim deed or prepare and record a transfer plat, as appropriate, not later than 6 months after the property is conveyed.

SEC. 408. OMB REPORT.

(a) OMB REPORT ON SURPLUS AND EXCESS PROPERTY.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit a report on surplus and excess government property to Congress including—

(1) the total value and amount of surplus and excess government property, provided in the aggregate, as well as totaled by agency; and

(2) a list of the 100 most eligible surplus government properties for sale and how much they are worth.

(b) DATA SHARING AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

(1) develop and implement procedures requiring Federal agencies to share data on surplus and excess Federal real property under the jurisdiction of each agency; and

(2) report to Congress on the development and implementation of such procedures.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment in lieu of the amendments reported by the Committees on Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The amendment in lieu of the amendments reported by the Committees on Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 6233, SAFETEA-LU AMENDMENTS ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the imme-

diately consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 491) providing for a correction to the enrollment of H.R. 6233.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 491

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 6233, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction: Strike section 201(m)(3)(D).

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 2562) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2006, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 2562

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006”.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2006, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2006, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar

amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

(1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2006, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(2) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2007.

SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

Section 1311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by redesignating the second subsection (e) (as added by section 301(a) of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-454; 118 Stat. 3610)) as subsection (f).

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 2562) the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006, and move for its immediate consideration in the House.

Mr. Speaker, the annual cost-of-living adjustment, S. 2562, as amended, is one of the more important bills the Congress considers each year since it was first provided in 1976. Briefly, S. 2562, as amended, would authorize a cost-of-living adjustment—COLA—to VA's disability compensation effective December 1, 2006, as well as publication of the rates.

The Congressional Budget Office currently projects the COLA will be 2.2 percent. However, it may be higher or lower depending on changes in the Consumer Price Index. The exact percentage will be calculated in the next few weeks and the COLA will go into effect on December 1, 2006.

The cost of providing a COLA is assumed in the Administration's budget baseline. Likewise, H.R. 5385, the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2007, fully funds this year's veterans COLA.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ranking Member LANE EVANS for all his hard work and cooperation this Congress in his advocacy for veterans on this and other legislation. It has been truly a pleasure to work with him as Ranking Member this Congress. I do not think he ever forgot the core values shared by his family, and taught by his parents where he grew up. These same core values were polished by the United States Marine Corps. He embraced them and they were enduring and they helped guide him here in his service to country. Mr. EVANS will be missed on this Committee and in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all Members will support this bill and I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks and that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks, and include extraneous material on S. 2562, as amended.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2562, as amended, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006. The House passed a similar measure, H.R. 4843, on July 26, 2006 by a vote of 408-0.

Each year since 1976, Congress has provided a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to the benefits provided to our Nation's disabled veterans and their survivors.

The purpose of the annual COLA is to ensure that Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) cash benefits retain their purchasing power and are not eroded by inflation.

The House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees are following their longstanding practice of setting the COLA by reference to the yet-to-be-determined Social Security increase.

In February 2006, the Administration projected a 2.6 percent increase; as of May 2006, the Congressional Budget Office is projecting the COLA to be 2.2 percent. However, it may be higher or lower depending on changes in the Consumer Price Index. The exact percentage will be calculated in the next few weeks and the COLA will go into effect on December 1, 2006.

As Chairman BUYER indicated, this is one of the more important pieces of legislation the Veterans' Committee brings to the floor each year, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman BUYER, Ranking Member EVANS, and our Subcommittee Chairman MILLER, as well as Senator CRAIG and Senator AKAKA on the Senate side, for moving forward on this bill. Passage of this legislation will assure most of the men and women currently receiving benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) receive a well-deserved increase in benefits as of January 1, 2007.

We should never allow the compensation received by veterans, disabled in service to the Nation to erode in value as the cost of living rises. S. 2562, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006, will help our service-disabled veterans and their survivors maintain the purchasing power of their benefits in 2007 by providing for an increase in benefits.

This bill will help most, but not all, VA beneficiaries maintain the value of their benefits. Once again, I am disappointed that the bill does not include funding to allow our widows, widowers and their children to receive a cost-of-living adjustment for their supplemental transitional benefits as provided in the House passed bill. As a result, the value of the \$250 transitional benefit paid to surviving spouses with minor children for their first 2 years of eligibility will erode in value in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, if we can find millions to maintain the tax cuts provided to our wealthiest citizens, surely we can find an additional five or ten dollars a month to maintain the transitional benefit paid to our surviving spouses with children at its current purchasing power. Our Gold Star Wives, husbands whose wives have perished in our current conflict and their children deserve better.

No amount of money can adequately compensate our veterans for the loss of their health, or families for the loss of a loved one. It is important that the benefits, which our Nation provides to partially compensate for such losses, do not lose their value over time.

In 2005, over 29,000 veterans in Nevada received disability compensation or pension payments from VA and thousands of Nevada family members and survivors receive VA cash benefits.

The action we are taking here today will help the Nevada veterans and families who depend on these VA benefits.

I understand the urgency of passing this COLA so that veterans and their dependents will receive a timely increase in VA benefits. I hope that before this Congress recesses for the year, the increase in DIC benefits and other provisions passed by the House and Senate can be enacted into law. Those who have served this Nation, deserve no less.

S. 2562 will receive my full support and it deserves the support of all Members of this House.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NORTH KOREA NONPROLIFERATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 3728) to promote nuclear nonproliferation in North Korea, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. KUCINICH. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, this bill will not bring relief to the millions of North Koreans who are suffering every day. It is estimated that 2 million people have died of starvation in North Korea. More than 13 million North Koreans suffer from malnutrition, including 60 percent of all children, the worst rate among 110 developing nations surveyed by the World Health Organization and UNICEF. North Korea had an infant mortality rate of 2 percent in 2000. South Korea's infant mortality rate for the same year by contrast was 0.5 percent. There are chronic shortages of food and fuel already. Heavy military spending, estimated at between one-quarter and one-third of gross domestic product, has constrained and skewed economic development. North Korea has a per capita GDP of \$1,000. South Korea's per capita GDP by contrast is \$18,000.

Despite significant inflows of international assistance over the past decade, harsh economic and political conditions have caused tens of thousands of persons to flee the country.

The better approach the U.S. should be supporting is the approach adhered to by the South Koreans. They have taken the approach of unification as a way to pull North Korea into the modern world. It worked for East Germany,